

Appl. No. 10/066,595
Amdt. Dated Dec 16, 2004
Reply to Notice of Nov 24, 2004

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(cancelled)

2.(cancelled)

3.(cancelled)

4.(cancelled)

5.(cancelled)

6.(cancelled)

7.(cancelled)

8.(cancelled)

9.(cancelled)

10.(cancelled)

11.(cancelled)

12.(currently amended) An apparatus for adding a color syrup additive to a first tempered, lipid-based formulation, comprising:

 a storage tank for containing said first tempered lipid-based formulation;

 a mixing body for evenly-mixing said color syrup additive into said first tempered, lipid-based formulation to form a mixture, said mixing body having an outlet tube for said mixture;

 a feed tube coupled to said storage tank for feeding said first tempered lipid-based formulation into said mixing body in a continuous stream;

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a reservoir for said color syrup additive;
an injection port located at a position within the interior of said feed tube so as to be surrounded by said tempered lipid-based formulation as it flows into said mixing body; and
a ~~cyclically operating pump~~ configured to operate cyclically connected to said reservoir ~~for to~~ intermittently supplying said color syrup additive from said reservoir to said injection port as said first tempered, lipid-based formulation flows through said feed tube so as to deposit discrete quantities of said color syrup additive into said continuous stream of said tempered, lipid-based formulation whereby a plurality of spaced apart discrete quantities of said color syrup additive are axially located in said continuous stream of lipid-based formulation as it enters said mixing body through said feed tube; and
~~_____ and said mixing body including means for ensuring~~ said mixture is evenly colored as it exits said mixing body at said outlet tube.

13.(previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said mixing body is cylindrical, and comprises a plurality of fingers directed radially inwardly from the circumference thereof, and a plurality of interposed circular discs each having a diameter less than the diameter of the mixing body mounted axially along the length of the mixing body.

14.(previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said mixing body is a jacketed ribbon blender.

15.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said ~~cyclically operating pump~~ configured to operate cyclically is a proportional pump.

16.(new). The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said injection port is centrally located within said feed tube.

17.(new) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
a conveyor;
a first spreader for spreading a second lipid-based formulation on said conveyor;
a extruder for striating said second lipid-based formulation into a plurality of ribbons;

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a cooling tunnel for cooling said striated second lipid-based formulation;
a second spreader downstream of said cooling tunnel for dispensing said first lipid-based formulation after said first lipid-based formulation has passed through said mixing body onto said striated second lipid-based formulation; and
a second extruder for striating said first lipid-based formulation into a plurality of ribbons overlying said respective ribbons of said second lipid-based formulation.

18.(new) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said first and second extruders each comprise a plurality of fingers contacting said conveyor, said fingers of said second extruder being aligned with corresponding fingers of said first extruder.

19.(new) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said fingers of said second extruder are narrower than the fingers of said first extruder.

20.(new) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a cooling tunnel downstream of said second extruder.